



# Restore Our Waters

Seattle is surrounded by water – it's what makes the city such a beautiful place. We must protect the water quality of Puget Sound, our lakes and our creeks.

Let's support Seattle's environment by making smart investments. We need to restore and enhance shorelines, control storm water flows that destroy habitat, and support citizens who are working in their own neighborhoods. Our efforts must be based on sound science and effective partnerships with neighborhood groups, environmental organizations and businesses.

Building a strong, healthy community means protecting these incredible assets for future generations. Let's work together to restore our waters!

GREG NICKELS  
Mayor of Seattle

## Mayor Nickels' Restore our Waters Strategy

Restore our Waters (ROW) is a comprehensive strategy to restore, protect and enhance the water bodies of Seattle. The strategy sets goals for each body of water and requires City departments to work with each other and invest smartly in projects that make the most improvement. The City also encourages residents and businesses to do their part to protect and restore our waters.

### What the City is Doing

**Slow the Flow** - Heavy rains carry pollution to water bodies, cause flooding in neighborhoods, and destroy fish and wildlife habitat. The City uses detention ponds, creek channel widening and other projects to reduce the flow of storm water.

**Protect Water Quality** – The City works with businesses and residents to prevent water pollution and to clean up the hazardous sediments that build up in waterways.



Natural drainage system - 2nd Avenue NW

**Restore Habitat** – The City restores habitat for migrating salmon and other wildlife along shorelines, creeks and lakes in Seattle.

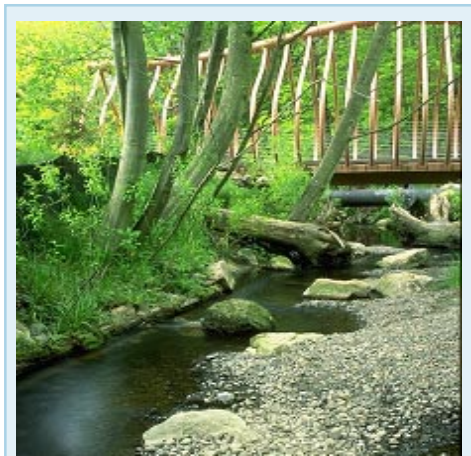
**Support Citizens** – The City offers financial incentives, technical assistance, education and training to help private property owners and others restore habitat and keep pollution out of our water bodies.

## You Can Help

### In Your Yard

Oils, pet waste, pesticides, roof runoff and other substances pollute storm water that drains into Seattle's waters.

- **Use rain barrels and cisterns** to capture rainwater from roof downspouts.
- **Reduce or eliminate pesticides** that pollute storm water. Natural lawn and garden care is easy and good for the environment. Contact the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline at 206.633.0224 or [lawn&gardenhotline@seattleilth.org](mailto:lawn&gardenhotline@seattleilth.org) for more information.
- **Pick up pet waste** to keep it from polluting area waters.



Longfellow Creek restoration



Creek stewardship volunteers

### In Your Neighborhood

By taking small steps or working with your neighbors you can prevent pollution and restore wildlife habitat.

- **Take your car to a commercial car wash that recycles water or wash your car on a grassy area** to keep oils and other contaminants from polluting water bodies.
- **Partner with organizations or neighbors** on projects to help water ways. Become a volunteer creek steward. For more information, contact Bob Spencer, Seattle Public Utilities, at 206.684.4163 or [bob.spencer@seattle.gov](mailto:bob.spencer@seattle.gov)
- **Apply for an environmental grant** to improve water quality in your neighborhood. The City offers grants to help with neighborhood projects. For more information, contact Anthony Matlock, Seattle Public Utilities, at 206.386.9746, or [anthony.matlock@seattle.gov](mailto:anthony.matlock@seattle.gov)
- **Stencil a storm drain** to inform people that whatever they put in the drain may flow directly to a creek or lake. For more information, contact Carlton Stinson, Seattle Public Utilities, at 206.684.7624 or [carlton.stinson@seattle.gov](mailto:carlton.stinson@seattle.gov)

### If You Own Waterfront Property

Property owners along Seattle's waters have unique opportunities to help restore habitat.

Learn how to improve shorelines and creeks on your property. For more information, contact Bob Spencer, Seattle Public Utilities, at 206.684.4163 or [bob.spencer@seattle.gov](mailto:bob.spencer@seattle.gov)

## More Information

Visit the Mayor's web site to find out more about the mayor's Restore our Waters strategy, [www.seattle.gov/mayor](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor)